

NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg



United States Senator for New Hampshire

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Erin Rath/Jeff Turcotte

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CONCORD 20/20; CAPITOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS CLEARS FINAL CONGRESSIONAL HURDLE

\$860K in FY03 appropriations on way to the White House for final approval

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today announced that \$860,000 in federal funds for two community improvement projects in Concord has been approved by Congress and is now awaiting approval by the White House. Senator Gregg, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, was able to include the funding in the Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Conference Report passed by Congress late last week. The projects, \$360,000 for the Capitol Center for the Arts and \$500,000 for Concord's 20/20 long-term, smart-growth initiative, are detailed in the attached information sheet.

Senator Gregg stated, "The Capitol Center for the Arts is now well-known throughout the Northeast and has established itself as one of the premier locations for artists and shows north of Boston. This funding will allow the Center to expand the excellent work it has done on its stage and involve more local schools, enriching the education of local youths by teaching the arts. Art education is an invaluable resource to growing minds and I am pleased to have been able to support such a worthwhile endeavor.

"Several years ago, I had the opportunity to begin lending my support to the 20/20 project, working to prepare Concord for a continuation of the tremendous growth it is experiencing. The 20/20 project seeks recommendations from residents, planners and city officials on issues such as transportation and development to allow reasonable growth while still maintaining the excellent quality of life Concord has to offer."

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M.T. Mennino, Executive Director of the Capitol Center for the Arts, stated, "The Capitol Center is very grateful to Senator Gregg for giving a major boost to our educational program and for

assisting us in upgrading our physical plant. His recognition and support are heartwarming to the many citizens and corporations who have worked so hard to make the Capitol Center central to New Hampshire's cultural life and a resource for our children and their teachers.”

Amy Sheridan, Executive Director of 20/20, stated, “These federal dollars will fund completion of Concord 20/20's award-winning process to involve the community deeply in both the City's 10-year Master Plan and the State's redesign of Interstate 93 through our city. We are delighted to be able to support these efforts through completion, creating an example that can be duplicated by other communities.”

Fiscal Year 2003 Projects for the City of Concord

U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH)

Member, Senate Appropriations Committee

\$500,000 – 20/20 Smart-Growth Initiative

Concord's 20/20 long-term, smart-growth initiative not only plans for responsible growth over the next twenty years but takes concrete steps to ensure that the vision agreed to by the community is met. The 20/20 Committee has developed several priorities which it intends to focus on, including making the City's transportation system work to enhance the City's character and economic vitality.

Contact: Amy Sheridan, Executive Director 20/20 at (603) 228-0220

\$360,000 – Capitol Center for the Arts

The Arts Education Program, which serves over 30,000 students and teachers annually, includes teacher and student development programs, extended Artists Residency in the schools program, a youth theater project and backstage internship. The funding will also allow the Center to move ahead with its planned renovations of this historic facility.

Contact: M.T. Mennino at (603) 224-1111

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